

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 AID-05 EA-12
EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /104 W
-----017944 150743Z /23

O 150505Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6908

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0211

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, SO, ET, US
SUBJ: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REACTS TO PRESIDENT
CARTER'S JAN 12 PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JAN 14
STATEMENT HEADLINED AS "MINISTRY STATEMENT EXPOSES CARTER'S
ANTI-ETHIOPIAN MOTIVE" IN JAN 15 GOVERNMENT-OWNED "ETHIOPIAN
HERALD":

" IN A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE CONDUCTED ON JAN 12, 1977,
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE STATEMENTS THAT ARE AIMED AT DELIB-
ERATELY MISREPRESENTING THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE
ETHIO-SOMALI CONFLICT AND ARE ALSO HARMFUL TO THE INTEREST
OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE INFAT-
UOUS SOMALI RULING CLIQUE HAS IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE
CHARTERS OF THE UN AND OAU, UNLEASHED WANTON AND UNPROVOKED
AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA, HOW CAN MR CARTER DOUBT THAT
THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISTURBANCES OF PEACE AND STAB-
ILITY IN THE REGION RESTS SQUARELY WITH SOMALIA. AS IT HAS
BEEN UNWITTINGLY EXPOSED BY THE SOMALI REGIME, IT WAS THE
US ADMINISTRATION AND IN PARTICULAR MR CARTER THAT HAS
PRODDERD THE SOMALI EXPANSIONISTS TO LAUNCH THEIR AGGRESSION
AGAINST ETHIOPIA. ETHIOPIA THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT THE US
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ADMINISTRATION SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AGGRESSION, AND,
MOREOVER THE CURRENT STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT
DOES FOREBODE WHAT THE US ADMINISTRATION IS CONTEMPLATING
BY WAY OF BOLSTERING THE HUGE STOCK OF SOMALIA'S ARMAMENT
FOR FURTHER INTENSIFYING HER AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA.
AS THE US GOVERNMENT IS FAMOUS FOR ITS POLICY OF SIDING WITH
DICTATORS AND TYRANTS WHO STAND AGAINST THE JUST CAUSE OF

THE MASSES, ITS ANTI-PEOPLE SUPPORT FOR THE DISCREDITED
FEUDAL REGIME CANNOT BE FORGOTTEN BY THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE.
THE ARROGANT AND ANACHRONISTIC ROLE OF THE POLICEMAN OF THE
WORLD THE US HAS ARROGATED TO ITSELF AS SHOWN IN VIETNAM,
CAMBODIA AND KOREA LED TO ITS IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT. HOPEFULLY,
THIS IS A LESSON WHICH ANY US ADMINISTRATION CANNOT IGNORE.

"ETHIOPIA IS FULLY AWARE THAT MR CARTER'S STATEMENT IS A
RESULT OF THE RECENT SECRET CONSPIRACY AND COUNTER-REVOL-
UTIONARY ORCHESTRATION HE WAS ENGAGED IN WITH THE REACTIONARY
SHSH OF IRAN AND THE ANTI-PEOPLE RULING CLASS OF SAUDI
ARABIA."

"THE LATEST BRITISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT THAT IT SUPPORTS
PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEWPOINT REFLECTS THAT THE BRITISH RULING
CLASS ARE CAVING TO THE TUNE OF THEIR AMERICAN MASTERS.
ETHIOPIA CANNOT FORGET THE TREACHEROUS ACT OF THE THEN
BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH IN 1935 BLOCKADED THE FLOW OF ARMS
TO ETHIOPIA UNDER THE PRETEXT OF "NOT ARMING BOTH PARTIES,"
WHILE KNOWING FULLY WELL THAT ITALY WAS COMMITTING NAKED
AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA. MR CARTER'S PRESENT STATEMENT
THAT HE IS WITHHOLDING ARMS TO BOTH PARTIES, IS PARALLEL
BOTH IN INTENT AND CONTENT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACT
OF 1935."

"TO HIS CLAIM THAT HE IS A 'MAN OF PRINCIPLES,' MR CARTER
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SHOULD HAVE OPPOSED THE OPEN AGGRESSION COMMITTED AGAINST
THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND TERRITORY BY THE SOMALI EXPANSIONISTS."

"SOMALIA BEING THE AGGRESSOR, WHILE ETHIOPIA IS THE VICTIM
OF AGGRESSION, IT IS DIFFICULT NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT A COVERT
HOSTILE US MOTIVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA HAS NOT PROMPTED THE US
PRESIDENT TO SAY THAT HE HOPES SOMALIA WILL CALL FOR NEGOTIA-
TION."

"IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT SOMALIA HAS IN OPEN DISRESPECT FOR
THE OAU AND ITS NOBLE PRINCIPLES, WALKED OUT OF THE OAU
XAETHIO-SOMALI 'GOOD OFFICES' COMMITTEE THAT WAS CONVENED IN
LIBREVILLE IN AUG 1977. BY SO DOING, SOMALIA NOT ONLY TRAMP-
LED ON THE VERY PRINCIPLES THAT ARE THE FOUNTAINHEAD OF THE

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EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /104 W
-----017945 150742Z /23

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6909

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OAU, BUT ALSO GAVE AMPLE PROOF THAT SHE IS AT ODDS WITH
PEACE. ETHIOPIA FIRMLY ESPOUSES THE VIEW THAT THE OAU IS THE
SOLE AND THE RIGHT FORUM WHERE CONFLICTS AMONG AFRICAN STATES
COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUE. SOMALIA HAS CONSISTENTLY
STOOD FOR EXPANSIONISM AND THE GRABBING OF THE TERRITORIES
OF ITS NEIGHBOURS AND THUS ITS LATEST PLOY TO BE SEEKING FOR
PEACE WHILE IN REALITY IT IS ENGAGED IN VILE AGGRESSION IS
ONLY A RUSE TO CONFUSE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION."

"THE ONLY IMPEDIMENT TO PEACE IN THE AREA IS THE EXPANSIONIST
AND IRRIDENTIST PASSION OF THE REACTIONARY SOMALI RULING
CLASS, THAT ARE BENT ON ANNEXING ONE FIFTH OF ETHIOPIA, THE
WHOLE OF DJIBOUTI AND PARTS OF KENYA TO REALISE THEIR AVOWED
MYTH OF THE SO-CALLED 'GREATER SOMALIA.' PEACE CAN BE RESTORED
TO THE AREA ONLY IF SOMALIA IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWS ITS ARMED
FORCES FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. ETHIOPIA HAS EVERY RIGHT TO
TAKE ALL STEPS TO EXPEL THE SOMALI AGGRESSORS FROM HER TERRI-
TORY TO SAFEGUARD HER TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY."

"PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL THAT THE CONFLICT BE BROUGHT
BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE
UN SECURITY COUNCIL DOES BESIDE CONTRADICTING HIS STATE-
MENT THAT THE OAU BE SUPPORTED TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT, CON-
STITUTES AN AFFRONT TO THE EFFICACY OF OUR CONTINENTAL
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ORGANIZATION AND THE MATURITY OF AFRICAN DIPLOMACY. HENCE,
IT IS IRRELEVANT AND MISGUIDED."

"ETHIOPIA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REITERATE ONCE AGAIN THAT SHE
IS AT LEBERTY TO EXERCISE HER SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO ESTABLISH
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE STATES THAT RESPECT HER INDE-
PENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ETHIOPIA HIGHLY APPRE-

CIATES THE DISINTERESTED AID SHE RECEIVES AND THE SOLIDARITY SHE IS FORGING WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND CANNOT BE HELD TO ACCOUNT TO ANYONE ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP."

"THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL PEACE-LOVING FORCES, OF THE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT INHERENT IN THE SOMALI EXPANSIONIST CLAIMS ON THE BASIS OF ETHNICITY AND WARNS THAT IF UNCHECKED IT COULD INVOLVE THE WHOLE OF AFRICA IN CONFLAGRATION."

"IN VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT RELATED, ETHIOPIA BELIEVES THAT IF THE US GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS POLICY OF INTERFERENCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE SOMALI AGGRESSORS SUCH AN IRRESPONSIBLE ACT WIL INEVITABLY FORCE ETHIOPIA TO RECONSIDER THE FRAMEWORK OF HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT." MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS00211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780022-0444
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780162/aaaacaef.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57a163e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3773186
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REACTS TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S JAN 12 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS J
TAGS: PROP, SO, ET, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57a163e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014